NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH BRECK & CO., NO. 52 NORTH MARKET STREET, (Agricultural Warehouse.)—ALLEN PUTNAM, EDITOR.

VOL. XX.] BOSTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 23, 1842. [NO. 38.

N. E. FARMER.

For the New England Farmer.

MR METCALF'S ROTATION FARTHER EXPLAINED.

Mr Allen Putnam—Dear Sir—In my communication to you a few weeks since, I stated that my land was "the common loam." By this I mean that it is similar to much of the land in this vicinity. But perhaps I should give you a more correct idea of the land upon which I wish to practice the rotation then described, by saying that it is rather a stiff, heavy loam; for after lying three or four years in grass, it becomes compact and tenacious; though when broken up and fairly subdued, it is mellow and pleasant to cultivate.

For this reason I consider it an object to keep such land under the plow for three successive years, with the mode of treatment before described: and as we cannot obtain a crop of corn or wheat *without plowing*, is it not well to till our land when broken up, in a manner best adapted to the successful cultivation of those crops?

A citizen of this town, who has received premiums for the best crops of corn, has, in those instances planted upon land which was cultivated the year previous; and the succeeding year he has sowed the land to wheat, for which he has also obtained premiums.

Great crops are not what I am aiming after *at present;* but the gradual and permanent improvement of the soil; which by *former* treatment has been exhausted. But after the first series of crops, I anticipate greater results in the amount of produce than was first obtained.

Had I all the means of enriching my land that I could wish, I cannot say that I should pursue just this course; but having manure sufficient for only a small part of the land I wish to cultivate annually, I confine it to certain fields in rotation; and resort to *other means* for the improvement of other portions of my farm, the soil of which is of a different character—for the farms lying upon the hills and valleys of Berkshire, are made up of a variety of soils.

By sowing peas upon the inverted turf the first year, I do not mean to convey the impression that I deem this the best way to obtain a great crop of peas: I am confident that it is not. But as I stated before, it prepares the land for the application of the manure the next year; and the amount of peas produced will fully compensate for the labor bestowed upon the land.

I like the idea of not disturbing the turf when once turned down. For by keeping it below the surface, giving it sufficient time for decomposition, it tends to increase the depth of soil; and to effect this, I would plow *deep* when breaking up, and *not* as deep when cross plowing the next year; so as to avoid turning up the whole thickness of what was before turned down.

A *correct theory* of applying manures to land, adaptable to *different soils*, from which *the most* beneficial results may be derived, is a great desideratum to the farmers of New England.

Our lamented friend and patron, Judge Buel, after testing various methods in the application of manure, found it the most economical upon his light warm soil, to spread it unfermented upon the land, and turn it under with the plow. The favorable results he experienced from this mode of practice, induced him to recommend it generally, as will be found by perusing his writings.

Impressed with the force of his argument—inexperienced as I was in any regularly prescribed system of farming; and being satisfied that my father and others had not derived that benefit from their manure which might be obtained—I adopted with enthusiasm the method of plowing my manure under, in its raw state, at the rate of 25 cart loads per acre, expecting to bring my field into a high state of fertility, and at the same time obtain profitable crops; not considering that a different soil would require a different application of manure.

This experiment was made in the spring of '38, and having gone through the usual rotation of planting, sowing, and stocking to grass; the result has not been what I anticipated. The crops obtained were only medium, and the land is now in but little better condition than when first broken up.

This, and other circumstances have led me to investigate the subject of manures more generally, and though I do not pretend to have arrived at the *only true theory*:—if what I have written, induces those who have had more extensive practice, and tested certain methods by experiment, to give us the result of their researches upon this important topic, the few thoughts I have offered will not be wholly lost.

Your sincere friend,
And humble servant,
A. C. METCALF.

Poplar Hill, Lenox, Mass., March 7, 1842.

N. B.—Last April I turned over a piece of land which had lain for some time in pasture, and sowed it to peas, and though no manure had been applied for the last ten years, I obtained from the two and a half acres 43 bushels, the crop being dressed with plaster. From another field of four acres, broken up the September previous, I obtained in the year '39 seventysix bushels of peas—actual measurement—no manure being used excepting plaster. This crop was plowed in.

In these two instances I sowed only two bushels of peas to the acre; and my father and I were both satisfied that, had we sown another bushel to one acre, the crop would have been increased at least one quarter. A. C. M.

Remarks by the Editor.—In commenting upon a former communication by Mr Metcalf, we intimated that his rotation, (peas, corn, wheat and grass,) required more plowing and working of the land between one grass crop and another, than would be profitable generally. We still hold to that opinion. But we are far from maintaining that Mr M. would find it advantageous to work his peculiar soil less. If corn will not do well upon his sod, or land newly broken up, it is good husbandry to put on a crop that will pay him well. Our experience has been mostly on a warm soil—good for corn—and there we can get better corn upon the sod, than upon the ground after it has been tilled one year or more. This was tried in 1839. The sward land gave 87 1-2 bushels per acre, while the land that had been two years in roots, well manured each year, and was well manured in '39, gave only 80 bushels. We remember this case very distinctly, because we maintained in the spring, that the sward land would give the larger crop, in opposition to a more experienced cultivator, who expected more corn where the land was well pulverized.

But we are well satisfied that no safe general rules can be given upon points like this. Experience on each particular farm is the safest guide. But in order to get this experience, or to get *valuable* experience, each farmer must vary his own processes.

We have been pleased with these well written communications from Lenox; and though the rotation of crops will not suit our own purpose so well as one which lets us keep our lands more in grass, or rather which would let us take them up oftener, yet his course seems well adapted to stronger soils where grass holds in well.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN 1841.

We are indebted to Hon. Daniel P. King, of Danvers, Secretary of the Society, for a copy of the pamphlet named at the head of this article. And hoping to draw the attention of other societies to the subject of publishing, in a permanent form, their annual doings, we will express our belief that the money expended by the Essex County Society upon their *publication*, is as usefully appropriated as any part of their funds. This annual book, containing the address, the reports of committees, dissertations upon agriculture, premium list for the subsequent year, &c. &c., is distributed among the members, is read and studied by them at their leisure, and thus is made a vehicle of much useful information. The example of this county is, in this particular, worthy of imitation. Parts of the recent number will be copied into future pages of this paper.

Earliest Food for Bees.—In a conversation the other day with a worthy and observing farmer, he observed that the earliest food for bees in the spring, is maple sap. He states that he has seen them gather round the sap troughs, in the woods, during the warm days in the spring, before the buds or tassels of the willow and other trees and shrubs had put out, sipping and making themselves glad with the sweets that they find there. It would n't be a bad plan, if a person had any maples in the vicinity of his hives, to tap them for the use of his bees.—*Maine Farmer.*

ASHES AS MANURE.

The following is from "the Transactions of the Society for Promoting Agriculture in the State of Connecticut":—

"What experiments have been made with ashes? On what soils, for what crops, and for what grasses? What success has attended the use? Are leached or unleached ashes most beneficial as a manure? Do they equally suit upon the same soils, and for the same crops? In what quantities are they to be used?"

Mr Atwater, of Wallingford. I have made use of leached ashes, as manure for crops and grasses, and find it excellent for both upon dry land. When my grass fails, I plow up my land, and the ashes serve again as manure for a crop, and afterwards for grass. But ashes have not benefited my wet land, that was unfit to plow; for though they in most instances introduce clover, yet the land will soon be covered with moss, when it is rendered unfit for any thing, and if it cannot be recovered from the moss by plowing, it is injured instead of being benefited.

Mr Tomlinson, of Milford. We have found leached ashes to be excellent manure for flax.

Mr Parsons, of Durham. I have used unleached ashes for many years, as manure for Indian corn. I put a handful round each hill, soon after the first hoeing, and have much benefited my crop by this method, having frequently omitted some hills, for the purpose of ascertaining the benefit derived from the ashes. I have always found myself richly repaid both for the manure and for my labor. The greatest advantage has accrued when a rain has followed shortly after my applying the ashes.

Mr Noah Fowler, of Guilford. I have found, from experience, that leached ashes is a very beneficial manure for wheat and rye. It appears to me to be a great preventative of blasts.

Mr Andrew Hull, Jr., of Cheshire. I have received great benefit from leached ashes as manure for wheat and rye. But I have not found that it prevented blasts.

Mr Holcomb, of Simsbury. I have made use of unleached ashes, as manure, for Indian corn, and have derived great benefit from it on dry land. Whenever I have used it for corn, where the land was wet and heavy, it has been of no advantage to the crop at all.

Mr Wadsworth, of Durham. One of my neighbors planted a field with Indian corn, and applied unleached ashes to thirtysix hills. During the first part of the season, the corn on which the ashes was put, appeared much better than that in the other part of the field, to which no ashes was applied. When the corn was gathered, the thirtysix hills, to which ashes was applied, and thirtysix adjoining hills which had none, were measured, and those which had no ashes were found to be the most productive and to have the superiority over those on which ashes was put. This was on heavy land. The same neighbor made the experiment on light dry land. A part of his crop of corn was ashed and a part was not. Here, the ashed corn much exceeded the other.

Mr Eli Bronson, of Waterbury. In June, 1762, I plowed a grass field, of a light sandy soil, where much old wood was burned. The ground was very dry. After harvest, I plowed this fallow again. The drought continued more severe than was perhaps ever known in the memory of man. I observed that all the spots where logs were burned, were much more moist than any where else. This circumstance particularly attracted my attention, as I had been taught that ashes were of a hot, droughty nature, suited only to wet land.

In 1765, I planted a wheat stubble, which was new land and sandy soil, which had been thoroughly burned when tilled for wheat. Part of the corn was dressed with a handful of ashes to a hill, at the first hoeing; here, for the first time, within my knowledge, ashes failed of producing any beneficial effect.

Soon afterwards I planted a tough sward, part of which was ashed in quantity as above. The part dressed with ashes grew remarkably, while the other appeared languid and pale, as if grub-eaten, until the second hoeing, after which it began to recover and to thrive better; but it finally produced not more than half as much as the part to which ashes was applied.

From the experiments of myself and my neighbors, I formed the conclusion that not only on new land, which has been recently burned, but also on land which has been kept mellow by tillage for one or two past seasons, and where little or no undissolved vegetable substance remains, no visible benefit accrues; of which, the following facts may be considered as farther illustration.

In 1796, I planted corn after rye, the land cloddy and full of stubble; one end of it was very tough, and was planted with potatoes; a few hills of the potatoes, and most of the corn were ashed; some of the corn was dressed with gypsum—all was benefited, but the potatoes much the most.

In 1797, I again planted corn on cloddy land, encumbered with stubble. I carted on barn yard manure, not well rotted. I ashed a part, by which the crop was enhanced at least one third.

In 1798, I fallowed a lot, much exhausted by plowing. It was a dry loam, with tender sward. Carted on barn yard manure, ten loads to the acre, and plowed it four times. I sowed half an acre with wheat, and strewed over the half acre a small load of leached ashes, and eight or ten bushels of unleached ashes. The wheat at first grew surprisingly, and though it did not hold out according to its first appearance, it yielded eleven bushels.

In 1799, I planted corn on buckwheat stubble, loamy soil—I ashed a part of it when coming up, and omitted one row. At first there was an apparent advantage, but by hilling time it could scarcely be discerned, except at one end, where it was somewhat cloddy, and there it might be perceived at harvest time. The other part I dressed with gypsum, leaving one row as before: the success was the same as with the ashes.

The same year I planted a piece of sward land, loamy soil, and dressed the corn with ashes, omitting one row, as in the other field; began to hoe the corn seven days after the ashes was applied, when the hill in the unashed row, which we crossed in hoeing, was every where noticed from being yellow, while the other was a lively green. After the second hoeing, a second dressing of ashes was applied on part of the lot, but without effect, even on parts of that row, which was omitted in the first dressing. About hilling time, the unashed row began to recover; but finally yielded at harvest, little if any more than half as much as the adjoining rows.

The same year, I observed the like good effect on corn, both from ashes and from gypsum, on tough sward, and on cloddy land, as applied by my neighbors, in sundry instances.

I have often found ashes, both leached and unleached, to be very beneficial to grass on dry land, but not on wet. I have never found them useful on my garden.

From my experience and observation, I conclude that ashes is best applied on dry grass land, or on land newly plowed up, or where shades have lately been taken off, or where grass turf or other vegetable substances remain undissolved: in each of which cases, there is contained in the soil food for plants, unprepared for vegetation. To effect, therefore, a speedy preparation, ashes is an important application,

Whether ashes do, in fact, prevent worms, or destroy them when corn is eaten by them, I have not been able to ascertain; though they have been often supposed so to do, when no evil of the kind has existed. I have often, when corn has appeared languid and yellow, as if eaten by worms, taken up whole hills and carefully examined both the roots and the earth, without discovering any signs of worms. In these cases, I have deemed the unpreparedness of the soil to be the only evil. Ashes is then a sure remedy. But if the land be well tilled, the weather be warm, and there be frequent showers, it will be well prepared, without ashes, by hilling time or sooner; but the corn will not recover the injury it has sustained for want of earlier preparation. Hence it follows, that ashes on plow land should be applied as soon as vegetation begins.

It is best to apply leached ashes as soon as corn is planted, while a team and cart may pass without injury to the hills. But whether unleached ashes can safely be applied before the corn is sprouted, is a question I am unable to solve.

The usual quantity of unleached ashes for a hill of corn, is about a gill: but it is worthy of being observed, that where a greater or even a less quantity has been applied, the effect has been much the same. The effects of ashes and gypsum, so far as the application of the two has fallen within my notice, appear to be much the same.

SCYTHE AND SNAITH FACTORIES.

There is at Shelburne a magnificent water power, where the Deerfield river, after a union with its two principal branches, makes in the course of a short distance a descent over a broken ledge of rocks, I should judge, of more than twentyfive feet. This presents a most valuable water power, and the village in its neighborhood is destined to become the seat of many factories.

There is a scythe factory established, where the business is carried on to a considerable extent. The scythe made here has a deservedly high reputation. There is an improvement in its form, which consists in the usual concave bottom of the blade being rejected and a raised edge formed on the upper and under side, by which great stiffness is given to the blade. The blade appeared to me too narrow; but they are much approved by those who use them. The English scythes are in general much wider in their blades than ours; they are consequently not soon ground down, and the motion of them is much steadier; they are not, on this account, so liable to be bent, and their cut is more even and close.

There is likewise here, in the immediate neighborhood, an extensive manufactory of snaiths. The

particular form of a snaith, or scythe-handle, was formerly matter of chance or sleight of hand. It was scarcely possible to find two alike; or, after a man had made one, to be sure that he would make another of the same pattern. It is said that in Hingham, formerly, where the manufacture of pails was carried on extensively, the bucket makers could cut out the bottoms of their pails successfully only at the time of a full moon. The snaith makers had not even such an advantage, unless they had taken one of the constellations, but were obliged to proceed, as it is said, by guess, or to depend on mere skill to fashion two alike or even to fashion one well.

Every good mower knows how much the character of his work and his own ease in working depend upon the *hang* of his scythe, and these improved snaiths are, on every account, a valuable invention. The difference between one of these beautiful and graceful frames by which the scythe is balanced like a feather upon the hand, and the old-fashioned almost straight handle, by which it hung like a dead weight, is remarkable.

They are split out and sold in the rough state at $5 per hundred. The nibs or handles are made of black or yellow birch, and cost $2 50 per hundred. The irons for the nibs and ends are finished at fifteen cents a set. Men finish the scythe snaiths—that is, after they are taken from the oven—at two cents apiece, being boarded in addition; and a man will finish forty, or sixty, or sometimes one hundred per day.

About 75,000 are manufactured per year. The article in the rough state is first steamed three hours; then placed in a cast iron frame to give it the proper shape, four being put into one mould at a time. A number of these moulds are then placed in a frame, which moves upon a railway, and is shoved directly into a drying room or oven, where they remain fortyeight hours. They are then taken out, shaved smooth, and rubbed with sand paper, and returned again to another drying room to remain fortyeight hours longer. The nibs or handles are then put on, and the work finished.

The article is very beautiful. Great improvements have been made in fitting the ring to the scythe, by which it can be driven tight without the use of wedges, always objectionable in former modes; in sinking an iron socket to receive the claw of the scythe, so that the scythe does not become loose by the wearing away of the wooden mortice, as was formerly the case, in so fitting the nibs or handles that they can be loosened or driven tight, or removed one way or another, or placed at any inclination, at pleasure, and this without the trouble of movable wedges; and in so fitting the bottom of the handle to the snaith, that the strain is brought upon the snaith instead of the iron, which passes through the handle and is therefore much less liable to be broken.

Students of the Manual Labor School at the Falls, are often employed in this shop, in different operations, at ten cents an hour. They are at liberty to work three hours a day, and may still keep up with their classes. Some of the students in this way defray all their expenses.

Two lads were pointed out to me, then at work rubbing the snaiths with sand paper, who earned in the shop last year, one hundred and fifty dollars. They were brothers—one seventeen years old, the other younger; and were the children of a deranged parent, who was unable to provide for them. This was a beautiful example of most commendable industry, and evinced their worthiness of the education they were seeking.—*Colman's Fourth Report.*

THE DAIRY.

Professor Low, in the last number of his "Domestic Animals of Britain and Ireland," sums up as follows a carefully digested treatise on the importance of the dairy:—"The dairy is a branch of rural industry, in the highest degree deserving of attention. There are no other means known to us by which so great a quantity of animal food is derived for human support from the same space of ground. In the British islands, the production of this kind of aliment in summer and its entire value, forms no inconsiderable proportion of the yearly created produce of the land. There is no class of persons by whom milk, in one or more of its forms, is not used. Cheese may seem to be a mere superfluity to those who feed largely on other animal food, yet, even amongst this class, the consumption, from its regularity, is considerable; but amongst the far more numerous classes to whom cheese is a part of their customary diet, the consumption of this substance is very great. Butter is used by almost every family above the poorest, and to an enormous extent as a substitute for oil in culinary preparations. Simple milk, too, enters into the diet of every class, with this peculiarity, that it is consumed in a larger quantity in the rural districts than in the towns. It may be difficult to make an approximate calculation of the quantity and value of the milk consumed by the twentyfive millions of the inhabitants of the British Islands. It is, perhaps, a reasonable calculation, that each individual consumes half a pint of milk in a day, in its different forms, which would produce 570,212,500 gallons, which at 8d. per gallon, amounts to £19,010,416, besides more than 200,000,000 gallons employed in the raising and fattening of calves. Great as the production is, it is not sufficient for the supply of the inhabitants; and an importation takes place of butter and cheese, which an extension of the native dairy would enable the country to dispense with."

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

Making Bread.—Every one imagines they know how to make bread, and almost every one can wet up flour and bake it—but it by no means follows that they know how to make bread. To make good bread, good flour, good yeast, and good management are requisite. One of the simplest processes of making good bread is as follows:—To eight quarts of flour add three ounces of salt, half a pint of yeast, (or good sweet emptings,) and three quarts of water, of a moderate temperature, and the whole being well mixed and kneaded, and set by in a proper temperature, will rise in about an hour, or perhaps a little more. It will rise better and more equally if the mass is covered. It must undergo a second kneading before it is formed into loaves for the oven. The more bread is kneaded the better it will be. Be careful not to allow your bread to become sour in rising. Milk is by some used instead of water in mixing their bread. Milk will make white bread, but it will not be sweet, and dries quicker than bread made with water. If loaves are slightly gashed with a knife around the edges, before they are put in the oven, cracking will be avoided in baking. From an hour to an hour and a half is required to bake bread fully.

Sponge Bread is made by taking three quarts of wheat flour, the same quantity of boiling water, and mixing them carefully together. When lukewarm, add a teacup full of common, or a little less of distillery yeast, and set the mass in a warm place to rise. When light, knead in flour till it will mould well; then let it rise again, when it is to be moulded into loaves and baked.

French bread or rolls is made by taking half a bushel of fine flour, ten eggs, a pound and a half of fresh butter, a pint of yeast, or more, if not first rate, and wetting the whole mass with new milk, pretty hot. Let it lie half an hour to rise, which done, make it into loaves or rolls, and wash them over with an egg beaten with milk. In common French rolls, the eggs and the butter are not uncommonly omitted, but their addition makes the bread decidedly better.

The following bread has been found very useful for those to whom fine flour bread was injurious:—Of good wheat, ground fine but unbolted, take three quarts, one quart warm water, one gill of fresh yeast, one gill of molasses, and one teaspoonful of salæratus. Make two loaves, bake an hour, and cool gradually. It has sometimes been called dyspepsia bread.

No kind of bread should be put into an oven too hot, as a crust will be formed, and the proper rising prevented. Heat your oven thoroughly, but let the first flush heat pass off before your bread is put in. If you fling in a little flour, and it browns in about a minute, put in your bread; if it burns black, wait a few minutes. There is much depending in every family on the bread used, and the greatest care should be taken to have it sweet and of good quality. Bread should never be put on the table till twentyfour hours after baking, where health and economy are consulted.—*Albany Cult.*

MAXIMS.

Injury.—A little wrong done to another, is a great injury done to ourselves. The severest punishment of an injury is the consciousness of having done it; and no man suffers more than he who is turned over to the pain of repentance.—*Sir Walter Raleigh.*

Pity and Scorn.—He that hath pity on another man's sorrow, shall be free from it himself; and he that delighteth in and scorneth the misery of another, shall one time or other, fall into it himself. —*Ibid.*

Beauty.—Remember that if thou marry for beauty, thou bindest thyself all thy life for that which, perchance, will neither last nor please thee one year; and when thou hast it, it will be to thee of no price at all—for the desire dieth when it is attained, and the affection perisheth when it is satisfied.—*Ibid.*

Promises.—It would be more obliging to say plainly, we cannot do what is desired, than to amuse people with false words, which often put them upon false measures.—*Sir P. Sidney.*

Talking.—The best rules to form a young man are, to talk little, to hear much, to reflect alone upon what has passed in company, to distrust one's opinions, and value others that deserve it.—*Sir W. Temple.*

Facts.—Weigh not so much what men say, as what they prove.

For the N. E. Farmer.

LEATHER SHAVINGS FOR MANURE.

Mr Editor—One of your correspondents inquires what is the value of a cord of leather shavings destitute of oil. We should suppose it would be difficult to find a cord of those shavings, in any manufactory, entirely void of oil. There may, however, be operations exclusively in sole leather, which would produce them. We can speak only of the efficacy of the shavings in the shops of the shoemaker and currier. The oil in those shavings is no doubt a powerful ingredient, but cannot be powerful enough to produce more than a small portion of the effects witnessed. The gelatine of skins would be generally admitted to be a very effective manure; this quality may seem lost in the conversion of skins into leather, and there may be so firm a combination of gelatine with tannin, as to defy the power of the chemist to educe from the leather any thing strongly resembling the original qualities of the skin. The laboratory of nature, however, will often show results which that of the chemist cannot. The supposed insolubility of leather shavings should not operate as an objection against the use, more than the same supposition does against the application to land of the hair and hoofs of animals, feathers and wool, which by general consent rank among the most powerful of manures.

We did not sit down to write a dissertation, but to give a narration of facts. Forty years ago, we purchased a small farm of a shoemaker, who had cast the shavings from his shop by the roadside or in the corners of lots. Our first object was to clear away those unsightly heaps. We carried them into the fields, believing if the leather could do no good, the vegetable substances would, which time had incorporated with it. Every field on which these heaps were spread, became remarkably productive;—so much so as to excite the admiration of neighbors. And something might have been ascribed to ingenuity in cultivation, which was due rather to the energy of old leather. This early, and in some degree accidental success, (for then we had neither read nor thought much on subjects connected with agriculture,) induced us to be very saving of scraps of old leather, we have been in the habit of cutting up old shoes and boots and spreading them on fields, and always think there is an ample remuneration for the labor bestowed. It will be perceived there has been no course of experiments which could qualify us to give definite answers to all the questions of "Inquirer." We think, however, that leather shavings are a good dressing for almost any description of soil; that they will assist in the growth of nearly every class of plants, perhaps more from preparing the soil for vigorous action than direct influences. We think three cords sufficient for one dressing of an acre, and believe the ultimate results of such a dressing would be greater than a dressing of six cords of the richest barn manure.

M. ALLEN.

Pembroke, March 12th, 1842.

No disputing about Tastes.—The hedgehog will eat Spanish flies, which will kill a dog, and a common hog feasts upon rattlesnakes.

Large Pickerel.—Mr Daniel Risley, of East Hartford, showed us, says the Hartford Times, a pickerel, which he caught, weighing 14 lbs.

From the Maine Farmer.

EXPERIMENTS ON PLANTING LARGE AND SMALL POTATOES.

Mr Holmes—We think, in this region, that small potatoes are as good for seed as large ones, and the result of any experiment for a single year, will seem to say so. If this is true, the rule that "like produces like," must here have an exception.

I commenced the experiment spoken of eight years ago, when I selected a few of my largest potatoes, and a few of the size that we usually plant—small, but not the smallest—and have ever since kept two distinct *breeds*, if I may so speak, selecting large ones to plant from the large lot, and small ones to plant from the small lot. Till this year, I have never been able to perceive any difference more than difference of soil, or some other like circumstances would make;—but this year the result is so marked, that I think the seed alone must have produced it. Perhaps in a good season the result would be different. I selected a bed in my garden as nearly equal in quality as I could find, and planted, without manure, eight rows across it, as follows:—

No. 1, planted with large potatoes, cut, yielded				16 lb. large and	19 lb. small potatoes.
" 2, small,	"		3	"	11
" 3, large,	"		9	"	16
" 4, small,	"		2 3-4	"	8 1-2
" 5, large,	"	whole,	18 1-2	"	10 3-4
" 6, small,	"	"	11 3-4	"	11
" 7, large,	"	"	20	"	10 1-2
" 8, small,	"	"	9 1-4	"	9 1-2

In each row fifteen potatoes were planted and none of the seed rotted. The acreable quantity of seed and produce is as follows:

No. 1	requires	43	bushels	seed, and	yielded	400.
" 2	"	17	"	"		160.
" 3	"	43	"	"	283	
" 4	"	17	"	"	——	128
" 5	"	43	"	"	334	
" 6	"	17	"	"	——	260
" 7	"	43	"	"	349	214
" 8	"	17	"	"	——	——
					4) 1366	4) 762

Average for large seed, 341 1-2; for small seed, 190 1-2 bushels to the acre. W. D. D.

POTATO PLANTING.

The Right Hon. Sir James Graham, presented the Royal Agricultural Society of England, a communication he had received from Major Perceval, of Barntown House, county of Wexford, Ireland, on the subject of potato planting; and in reference to that part of Sir James Graham's paper on the same subject, printed in the third part of the Society's Journal, in the year 1840, referring to the failure of the crop arising from the circumstance of using *cut seed*. Major Perceval gives a statement of a similar failure, to a considerable extent, experienced ten or twelve years ago in the district in which he resides, in the potato crop, from seed made of cut sets, the failure being attended, however, with great peculiarities. The cut seeds planted in the forenoon, were found to do well, and yield a good crop; while those planted in the afternoon were nearly a total failure: or, on the contrary, those planted the next day in the forenoon, a failure, while the afternoon planting would be found to do well. The capricious results would be found to happen in the same field, all of a uniform quality; the same manure being used throughout, the same sets being cut at the same time as the others, and in every way treated similarly, to obviate the serious evil. Major Perceval then proceeds in an interesting account of the management of his potato crop, and states that he found the failure from cut seed entirely prevented by selecting the largest potatoes, which he put into pits for seed, (a plan which prevented all chance of their heating,) and in spring, two or three days before planting, he cut the potatoes into sets as often as possible, with one eye, or germinating principle in each, and immediately limed them, (drying up the cutting with air-slacked lime,) keeping them spread on a floor. We have planted cut seed in Canada, in the forenoon, that succeeded and was free from dry rot, while the same seed, cut from the same pit of potatoes and planted in the same field, soil, and manure, in the afternoon of the same day, was nearly a total failure. To cut sound potatoes, lime them after they are cut, and let them dry before planting, will, in a great measure, prevent dry rot.—*British Amer. Cult.*

From the Maine Farmer.

HEMLOCK AND PINE FOR SHEEP.

Mr Holmes—I will once more give my opinion of the benefit of hemlock and pine boughs for sheep, and even spruce and fir, though they are not so good.

I think I shall be correct in saying I began with six sheep forty years ago last March. I ever have and still keep the descendents of the same sheep, except by crossing from other bucks. I have ever used more or less hemlock or pine, and both when convenient, and allowed them to eat when they would and when they pleased, by placing it by the side of the fence in the yard. I have never discovered the least damage by it, but a benefit, for less hay is required. I still feel correct in saying that my sheep are as healthy, and ever have been, as those of my neighbors.

I consider pine healthy, and it saves the trouble of using tar on the nose, and besides, is much more comfortable for the sheep than a dry lot of tar and hair near their mouths.

It was said, in former years, that hemlock given to sheep would make them weak, they would loose their wool, and the lambs would come dead, &c.; this is the opinion of some at the present day.—This is a mistake. I have noticed, where these stories are told, that the sheep were poor, one cause of which was for want of food. It is true that a very poor sheep often brings forth a dead lamb, or if not dead, it soon dies for want of food, and if the sheep lives to the time for taking off the fleece, it is often the case that the greatest part is on the hedges and brush of the fields for the birds to build their nests with.

When I was hauling my fire wood, not long since, I was putting some hemlock boughs on my sled, my wood cutter says, if you give them to your sheep they will have dead lambs. I said, not so—for I have a live one now, and expect a few more soon. My reasoning is, that sheep and cattle want a change of food as much as human beings, in proportion to their grades. I consider it the better way for many, if not all, who have fires to support and sheep to feed, to save the small boughs of the hemlock and pine, and place them in their yards for their flock.

Thus much I have written on the bark of a birch

tree, and much more could be. If you think it worth placing in your useful columns, it is at your disposal.

Yours, J. WHITMAN.

North Turner, Feb. 22, 1842.

NOTE.—We received the above communication written upon some of Nature's paper—the bark of the birch. It was enclosed in a paper letter, and our Postmaster thought he must tax double postage on it. Where's the law for taxing postage on birch bark letters?—ED.

From the Maine Cultivator.

GRAIN—PRACTICAL HINTS, &c.

NORRIDGEWOCK, March 5, 1842.

Messrs. Editors—I am apprehensive that my communications will become tedious to many of your readers, on account of the minuteness of my details; but if those to whom they prove so, will reflect a moment, they will be convinced that writers on agriculture are apt to go into the opposite extreme, and only write on general principles or striking facts; taking it for granted that every one is already sufficiently acquainted with the minute details, which is far from being true. Few of your readers but can recollect some simple labor-saving observation, in your useful paper, which has been of more value to them than one year's subscription. With these convictions I shall continue to speak of things no otherwise important, than having convenience and saving of labor to recommend them.

I object to mixing grass seed with grain, to save labor in sowing, as much of it would be covered too deep by the harrow and treading of horses or oxen. After sowing my wheat or other grains they are harrowed twice—grass seed sowed, and then rolled smooth. On sandy loam, half a peck of clover and the same of timothy or herds grass, is a good quantity. In clayey loams, two quarts clover and eight of herds grass, is about right—varying the proportions according to the soils—in very wet and bog-land soils, the clover should be omitted and a half bushel of red top and a peck of herds grass sowed to the acre. As a general thing we sow too little grass seed. The consequence is, a poor tilth is left naked, and the growth on a rich one is so rank, as to lose much of its value. Some use a brush harrow to smooth their ground and cover grass seed. This may do on ground too wet to admit the roller, but is liable to drag the seed and leave it uneven. I would always sow chaff in preference to clear seed; but it requires observation and judgment; for a bushel of chaff, which will contain two lbs. of seed one year, may not afford half that quantity another.

Every farmer ought to grow his own seed; it is always a cash article, and if he buys he has to pay for cleansing, which is useless, unless it contains foul seed. If leached ashes are used on wheat, they should be spread before cultivating: if unleached, they may be sowed any time before the plants are four inches high. Were it not for pressing the earth around the seed, I should prefer not to roll my grain of any kind, till it was three or four inches high. It will then destroy myriads of insects, and cause the grain to branch more.

If this mode will not break the eggs of the Hessian fly, I know no means of doing it. All that has been said or written on sowing quick lime, ashes, or impregnating fields with the fumes of tobacco, sulphur, or *essences of pole-cat* to destroy the fly, in July or any other month, has never destroyed enough of them to pay a man for a week's work. Some wise man in our State, has advied to *starve them out* of the country by ceasing to sow. I should not like to see it tried, as I fear the experimenters would starve first. Although women and children are not employed here as in Europe, to weed and glean grain fields, and field labor is expensive, still I am satisfied from personal observation, that many fields of wheat will well reward an outlay of one to three, or even four days expended in weeding an acre. By thorough weeding once, the Canada thistle may be prevented from going to seed before harvest. Every farmer should have a pair or more of weeding tongs. They may be made of wood, exactly in the shape of a pair of blacksmith's tongs,—the handle about four feet long, and spread so as to permit the operator to stand between them. Mine have the jaws and joint made of iron, with teeth on the inside, a turned hoe-handle screwed on each shank, like a goose neck hoe. I have also a sharp gouge, one and one fourth inch wide, handle four feet long: with these, an immense number of weeds can be destroyed in a day.

The advantages of early cutting are so numerous that I must dwell a little on them. As soon as the upper part of the stock is turned yellow and the kernel is fairly in the *paste state*, put in the cradle the first fair day—I say the *cradle*, for before the grain is crippled by long standing, this useful instrument *can* be used. If you neglect to cut then, you may have rains, and winds to ripen, break down and shell out the grain—if rusty, the quality grows poorer—you must cut with a sickle—the straw is too brittle for bands—you can only handle it when the dew is on, &c.

Unless you feel able to purchase the little machine, with fingers pushed before a pair of little wheels, for taking up cradled grain, which is a great saver of time and back-ache, you may follow the cradle with a rake made as follows: head 2 ft. long, 1 1-2 inch square, 6 teeth half inch in diameter, 10 inches clear of head—handle seven feet long—a dry fir is the right shape and light—on the back of head and handle, instead of bows, nail a triangular piece of half inch board, with which to even the butts of the grain. If your grain is good, you may stand in your place and gather a sheaf.

Those who understand it, can make five bands sooner than I could describe the process. By the way, I know men who can make a band and bind a sheaf quicker than others can do the former. There is a *cleverness* in handling grain, which few men have arrived at in this section. I have had men in my employ who could not average half an acre in a day.

It is safest to stook the same day you cut. I prefer twenty bundles to a stook, on account of the power to stand against the wind. It is made as follows: Set up four pairs and one at each end; one pair and one, on each side of the centre;—place four cap-sheaves on each of these points, and fasten together in the usual way.

Cradled grain is much less liable to hurt in the stook or barn, than that which is reapt, on account of its looseness. Much grain is injured by mowing down too soon. In fact it would be better never to put it in close mows. I saw a grain barn at Guilford, owned by Hon. Joseph Kelsey, in which he had one scaffolding above another, so that the wheat all stood on the butts. It could not hurt in this way. I cannot doubt the flour would be much sweeter preserved in this way.

As to the mode of thrashing grain, it has come to be more expensive than before any horse power machine was in operation. It is my deliberate opinion that the man who has grain enough to make it an object to feed cattle on it, will save time and money by using the flail in preference to any machine; unless he can have one in his barn to use as he pleases, Few farmers will afford this. The time lost in tumbling straw out doors and pitching it back again, with the hazard of injury from stones and serious evils, all of which are avoided by threshing and feeding from the floor.

Of barley and oats next time.

Yours, &c.

JAMES BATES.

[From the same.]

CLEARING AWAY OBSTRUCTIONS TO THE PLOW.

Messrs. Editors—This is a subject which nearly interests every farmer in our State. Those who have travelled through different parts of our State, and have been at all observant of the state of things, must know that stumps, stones, old logs, and other obstructions, are more or less abundant. Now, Farmer Thrifty is one of those men who in reasoning always endeavors to come at the bottom of his subject. And his first object to be accomplished is, to clear away all obstructions from the field, so that a complete unbroken furrow may be turned from one end to the other;—this, as Farmer Thrifty says, is beginning at the right end of business.

Plowing is the grand operation in husbandry. If a field be poorly plowed, it can not yield a good crop, however skilfully managed in other respects. And let the question be asked, what proportion of the arable land in our State is capable of being well plowed? Much has been said lately in regard to improvements in the construction of plows. But of what avail is the most consummate skill in the making of this grand instrument of agriculture, if our fields are to remain encumbered with stumps, roots, stones, &c.? A well constructed stump machine should be owned in every neighborhood where stumps abound; and I have heard Farmer Thrifty say that he wished that the inventive genius of some mechanic would make us off just the right kind of thing for extracting stones from the ground. After procuring suitable implements for performing all this business, it will not be so great a task as might be imagined, to clear away all obstructions from our arable lands. Farmer Thrifty says that he has determined to persevere in this business, till his whole farm is entirely cleared of obstructions to the plow. Let us then, gentlemen farmers, imitate this worthy and patriotic citizen, and the agriculture of the State of Maine shall be placed on equal or higher footing than that of Great Britain.

Swearing in conversation indicates a perpetual distrust of the person's own reputation, and is an acknowledgement that he thinks his bare word not worthy of credit.

There are sixteen companies in Boston engaged in the ice trade. The quantity of the article exported from that city last year, amounted to *six hundred thousand dollars.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1842.

THE PLANTING OF POTATOES.

We are rather early in giving directions for the planting of this crop. But if we would notice the mode of planting most of the ordinary crops in season, we must take some one or more of them in anticipation of its proper time. We will premise that our success with this crop has been little favorable. Whether this be owing to the soil we have tilled; to the manure we have used; to the mode of applying the manure; or to injudicious methods of cultivation, or to all of these combined, we know not. Want of success with a crop which most farmers deem a good one, has caused us to study all the accounts of its cultivation which have fallen in our way; and also to study the plant and crop *in the field*, as far as we have had opportunity during the last year. Another thing we will premise, viz: the opinions we shall give, should be tried by many and varied experiments, before we shall venture to promulgate them as rules that farmers will obviously find it well to follow. If our statements shall induce them to make some experiments *on their own responsibility*, we shall be content.

Our practice has been to plant on a good loamy soil, with hard gravelly subsoil;—oftener on sward than on old ground. Have planted from the first to the twentieth of May. Have usually planted in hills 3 1-2 feet apart;—put a good large manure-fork full of manure in the hill—say twelve to fifteen loads—or from four to five cords per acre. This manure has been applied immediately upon taking it from the barn cellar, while dripping wet with urine, and the potatoes—15 to 20 bushels per acre—have been put upon this dung forthwith and trodden *into it*. For after culture, the plow has been run between the rows, usually each way, and the plants hoed two or three times. This differs little from the most common mode of operation in the eastern part of the Commonwealth, excepting that the manure is much more full of urine than that upon farms in general. Whether the *strength* of the manure has not been detrimental in our mode of using, may be a fair question, and if obliged to give answer, we should *guess* that it has.

Potatoes generally do best in cool seasons and in cool soils. We have given them a hot bed. More than this, we have formed beds into which the atmosphere does not pass very freely. We can recal in memory several sayings and facts which render it probable that in this we erred. There was a common saying in our boyhood, which used to be uttered when we were planting on rough and cloddy land, that *sods* were the best covering for potatoes. Only a few years since, we noticed when digging potatoes on a reclaimed meadow, that those hills which were made up mainly of *small* clods contained more and better potatoes than those hills which were formed from large clods, or those which were composed of the *fine* peat or peaty matter. This led us to think seriously upon a thought which had passed through the mind before, viz: that potatoes require air. About two years ago, we mentioned this point to an observing farmer in Topsfield. He said, your remarks remind me of what I witnessed last year, or the year before, on Dr. Nichols' farm. I was passing there one day about the first of June, and Mr G. had some brakes, ferns, *huckleberry* bushes, &c. in his cart, and appeared to be putting them into hills for planting. "What are you doing there, neighbor G.?" said I. "*Obeying orders*," said he. "Well, what are your orders?" "Why, the Dr. told me, after I had taken the manure out of the cellar, to put this stuff into the water in the bottom of the cellar, let it soak awhile, and then plant potatoes upon it." "*Small potatoes there*, thinks I," said our informant, Mr Pettingill. But, continued he, I happened by there in the autumn, when Mr G. was harvesting the potatoes, and they were better than any others I saw that season.

Mr Breck, the publisher of this paper, informs me that several years since, he planted potatoes in his garden where the land was rich, and had long been tilled. In such places, vines or tops are usually luxuriant, while the bottoms or tubers are small. He furrowed out this ground with a large plow, running deep, making drills four feet apart. He then nearly filled the drills with butt stalks; put his seed upon these, about a foot apart in the hill, then leveled on the furrow, and in tilling made no hill or ridge. From this land he obtained at the rate of between seven and eight hundred bushels per acre.

The process pursued by Mr Barnum, of Vermont, whose statement has recently been in our columns, though in many respects different from these here given, yet was well suited to keep the surface of the land so loose as to admit of a free circulation of air.

Now, without intending to say or intimate that air is *all* that this crop wants, we do intend to express the *opinion*, distinctly, that the crop does require more air than is usually allowed it. What may be inferred from the fact that potatoes often do wonderfully well where they are planted upon swamp mud, muck, and from the other fact, that they grow well by placing the seed upon the surface of moist land, and covering them with straw? Both of these matters are loose, and would afford good ventilation.

To what does all this tend? What course is to be recommended? As our opinions on this point are so much matter of *theory* we will not *recommend*. But we will mention methods that have occurred to us. One might put in the drill or the hill, a small quantity, four, five or six loads of well pulverized and good manure to the acre. This is wanted for the fibrous roots, the vine or stalk to feed upon. Above this might be put ten or twelve loads to the acre, of leaves, butt stalks, old potato vines, fine brush, chips or any thing of the kind which would keep a place light and loose for the tubers, the potatoes proper, to swell and grow in.—When planting, we know not whether it would be best to put the seed between the two kinds of dressing, or above them both.

Another method would be, and the work might be less, to manure with the good manure as before, using only a small quantity, planting directly upon that, covering *slightly*—stirring the earth well once or twice after the plants were up, and then putting the other dressing upon the surface.

COMPOSTING WITH MUCK OR SWAMP MUD.

One of the first farming operations in the spring, is to carry the manure from the barn yards and hog yards to the fields, and drop it in large heaps near where it is to be used for planting. By most farmers it is tipped from the cart, and permitted to lie for a few days in separate heaps of a load each. While thus exposed, the drying winds of spring extract its juices (the best part of it,) very rapidly. At a convenient time it is forked over, and the several loads are joined into one heap. A less surface is then exposed to wind and sun—but yet enough is exposed to allow the escape of every particle that takes the form of gas or vapor. These volatile parts which are usually suffered to escape, are the most fertilizing portions of the whole mass, and it is well to confine them if we can.

The course which science prescribes, and which the experience of many of our best farmers approves, is to mix your dung in layers of five or six inches thick with meadow mud—*muck*—that is, a layer of that thickness, then one of dung, and then of muck and so on; but be sure and let the muck cover the top and the sides. For then the ammonia and other valuable parts that are inclined to escape, will be seized and retained by the muck. Thus you save. But this is not all: in most instances the muck has a sourness or acidity, which prevents its acting well as a manure. Now the gases from the dung tend to remove or correct that sourness, and if they do this effectually, the muck itself becomes a good manure, and thus your quantity of real manure is doubled or more than doubled.

The mixture may be improved by adding, ten or twelve days before you use the compost, five or six bushels of ashes, or half as many of quick lime to each cord in the heap. If this is done the heap should have a coating of pure muck all over it, two or three inches thick, which should be well patted on with the shovel.

But, be cautious.—If you go to the swamp and dig muck *now*, and think to make that answer for this year's crop you will be likely to do more harm than good. Muck so recently dug has too much sourness. It wants a thorough *freezing* before it is fit to use.

To give an idea of what the loss may be from suffering our fermenting dung to remain exposed, as is usual, we may refer to an experiment by Sir H. Davy, in which he found that three pints of hot fermenting manure, consisting principally of the litter and dung of cattle, gave out in three days thirtyfive cubic inches of an "elastic fluid" which was found to contain twenty one cubic inches of carbonic acid. The fluid matter collected in the receiver amounted to near half an oz. and had a salt taste and disagreeable smell. If half an oz. of the best of the manure escapes from three pints in three days—there will be loss of two pounds per bushel, or of 70 lbs. per load of 35 bushels in three days. This is more than we can afford to spare.

THE FARMER'S MUCK MANUAL, BY DR. DANA.

We are indebted to the publisher for a copy of this work, which was favorably noticed by "A Constant Reader," in our last paper. We have turned over its leaves and taken a hasty glance at its contents. This has satisfied us that the work is worthy of a thorough reading. We hope that farmers will obtain the book, and put to the test of experiment many of the simple rules which Dr. Dana's science has deduced.—The term "muck" in the title, is used in a very broad sense. For the work treats of soils and *all kinds of manures*.—Science here leads to the same result in regard to peat, in compost, which has been reached by those practical farmers who make two or three loads of this peat, mixed *properly* with one load of cow dung, equal in value to four loads of dung. Dr. Dana has defined nearly all his terms, but the unlettered man, though he should read and understand the definitions, will soon forget many of them, and as he gets farther on in the book, he will become confused, and many passages will be entirely unintelligible to him. If he procures this work, he must make up his mind to *study* it. Very many of the most valuable parts of the work, however, can be understood by any man of common capacity, and will well repay for reading, even should he not recur to it a second time. Portions of the work are highly practical. Many of the positions are new, and their correctness will be questioned.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending March 20.

March, 1842.		6, A.M.	12, M.	6, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	14	25	34	38	S. W.
Tuesday,	15	25	46	39	S.
Wednesday,	16	30	38	36	N. W.
Thur-day,	17	39	58	52	S.
Friday,	18	40	48	42	N. W.
Saturday,	19	32	60	57	S
Sunday,	20	36	51	52	N. W.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, March 21, 1842.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 310 Beef Cattle, 30 pairs Working oxen, 15 Cows and Calves, 420 Sheep, and 1300 Swine. 20 Beef Cattle unsold.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.* We quote to correspond with last week, viz: a few choice cattle taken at $6. First quality, $5 50 a 5 75. Second quality, $4 75 a 5 25. Third quality, $4 00 a 4 50.

Working Oxen.—We noticed the following sales $65, 70, 75, and 90.

Sheep.—Lots were sold at $2 75, 3 00, 4 00, 4 50, and 5 00.

Swine.—Lots to peddle 3 3-4 and 4 for sows, and 4 3-4 and 5 for barrows. At retail, from 4 1-2 to 6.

Cows and Calves. Sales $20, 22, 25, and 30.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $2 25 to 2 50 per bushel. Red Top, 35 to 40 cents. Clover—Northern, 11 to 12c.—Southern, 9 1-2 a 10 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 to 1 85 bu. Lucerne, 25 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $3 50 a 4 00 per bushel.

GRAIN. The transactions consist of several cargoes yellow flat, 62 a 63, and some white, 54 a 55c per bushel. Oats, a cargo very choice Delaware sold at 48c per bushel. Corn—Northern, bushel — to — —do. Round Yellow — a — —do. Southern Flat Yellow 62 a 63—White do. 54 a 55—Barley — a — —Rye, Northern, 75 a — —Oats, Southern 45 a 47—Northern do. 48 to 49—Beans, per bushel 75 a 1 50.

FLOUR. The sales of Ohio have been $6 12, and selected brands $6 37; 500 bbls Howard street, $6, on time; 400 do Fredericksburg, $5 87, 4 mos; 300 do Philadelphia, $5 87 4 mos; 500 do Petersburgh, $5 75, cash.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $6 00 a — —do. wharf, $5 75 a 6 00 do. free of garlic, $6 00 a — — Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $5 87 a — — Fredericksburg, lowi'd 4 mos. $5 87 a — —Alexandria, wharf mountain,— — a — —Georgetown, $6 00 a 6 12—Richmond Canal, $6 00 a 6 12—do. City, $6 75—Petersburgh, City Mills, $6 00 a 6 25—do. Country $5 75 a 5 87—Genesee, common, cash, $6 50 a 6 56—do fancy brands $6 62 a — — Ohio via Canal, $6 25 a 6 37—Indian Meal in bbls., $3 00 a 3 25.

PROVISIONS. The sales at auction consist of 100 bbls. Mess Pork 8 37 a $8 75; 40 do do Clear, $11; 68 do do, $11 per bbl; 20 do Mess, $ 62 a $8 87 do; 40 bbls Western Lard, 4 7-8 a 5 1-4c, 4 mos.

Beef—Mess, 4 mo. new bbl. $9 25 a 9 50—Navy—$6 00 a 8 50—No. 1, $7 50 a — —do Prime $5 00 a 5 50—Pork—Extra clear, 4 mo. bbl. $12 a 12 50—do Clear $11 a 11 50—do Mess $9 00 a — —do Prime $7 00 a — —do Mess from other States 8 50 a 9 00.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 8 cts. per pound, free: All whereof the value exceeds 8 cts. per pound, 32 per ct. ad. val. and 4 cts per pound.

WOOL. A sale of 75 bales Cordova was made to go out of the market, at 9 1-2c per lb, 8 mos cr.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 47 a 50 c.—American full blood, do 43 a 46—Do. 3-4 do 40 a 41—Do. 1-2 do 35 a 37—1-4 and common do 30 a 32—Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 26—Do. unwashed, 10 a 14—Bengasi do 8 a 10—Saxony, clean, — Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 37 a 42—No. 1 do. do. do. 35 a 37—No. 2 do do do 25 a 30—No. 3 do do do 18 a 20.

HOPS. Several parcels have been brought forward, and a slight reduction was submitted to, in order to effect sales. 1st sort, Mass. 1841 per lb 10 a 11.

HAY, per ton, $20 to 25—Eastern Screwed $19 to 20.

CHEESE—Shipping and 4 meal, 4 to 6c.—New 5 to8.

EGGS, 16 a 25.

FARM IN LEXINGTON

For sale, a farm in Lexington known as the Hastings Place, containing about 120 acres, adjoining the Farm of E. Phinney. The land is of excellent quality, well stocked with fruit trees, and a good supply of young wood. For terms apply at this office, or of E. PHINNEY, living near the premises. Lexington, Feb. 9, 1842.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A stated meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, will be held at the Rooms of said Society, on Saturday, the second day of April next, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at which time, the officers elected on the first Saturday of Oct. last, will enter upon their respective duties, agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution of said Society.

President—M. P. Wilder.

Vice Presidents—B. V. French, C. Newhall, Jona. Winship, E. M. Richards.

Treasurer—S. Walker.

Corresponding Secretary—J. C. Teschemacher.

Recording Secretary—Eben. Wight.

Professor of Botany and Vegetable Physiology—John Lewis Russell, A. M.

Professor of Entomology—T. W. Harris, M. D.

Professor of Horticultural Chemistry—S. L. Dana, M. D.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Committee on Fruits—B. V. French, *Chairman*, R. Manning, P. B. Hovey, Jr., L. P. Grosvernor, W. Kenrick, J. A. Kenrick, S. Pond, O. Johnson, S. Walker, F. W. M'Condry, J. Breck.

Committee on Flowers—C. M. Hovey, *Chairman*, D. Haggerston, J. Breck, S. Sweetser, S. R. Johnson, W. E. Carter, J. Sickney.

Committee on Vegetables—S. Pond, *Chairman*—P. B. Hovey, Jr., Rufus Howe, John Hovey, A. D. Williams, J. A. Kenrick, J. L. L. F. Warren.

Committee on the Library—M. P. Wilder, *Chairman*, R. T. Paine, C. K. Dillaway, C. M. Hovey, B. V. French, S. Walker.

Committee on Synonymes of Fruit—R. Manning, *Chairman*, S. Downer, E. M. Richards, Wm. Kenrick.

Executive Committee—M. P. Wilder, *Chairman*, Wm. Oliver, B. V. French, E. M. Richards, C. M. Hovey.

Committee on Finance—E. Vose, *Chairman*, Wm. Oliver, B. V. French.

March 23. 2p E M. RICHARDS, *Rec. Sec.*

FOREST TREES, &c., AT AUCTION.

On Saturday, April 2, at 10 o'clock, at office,

Will be sold a valuable invoice of Forest Trees, (just imported per ship Tallyrand) consisting of 1300 fine picked transplanted Scotch larch,—124 purple beech—10 English oaks—6 English Elms—5 deciduous cyprus—5 common yews—15 Chinese arbor vitæ—100 sycamores (orientalis)—175 weeping ash—100 Spanish chestnuts—50 Scotch firs—95 weeping beech—27 weeping willows—4 salisburia adiantifolia (jingo)—50 sweet bays—3 ruscus aculeatus—4 English ivies—10 Siberian arbor vitæ—30 curled ash—150 Wych elms—50 lines.

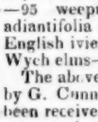
The above trees were selected and packed with great care, by G. Cunningham & Son, Seedsmen, Liverpool, and have been received in superior order, and believed to be in better preservation than any previously imported. Persons interested in the cultivation of forest trees, will have a rare opportunity of supplying themselves.

Catalogues will be ready for delivery on the 25th inst., and the trees may be seen the day before the sale.

WHITWELL, SEAVER, & CO.

March 23. eptApril2 75 Milk street, Boston.

CAMBRIDGEPORT NURSERY.



SAMUEL POND, Nurseryman, Columbia street, Cambridgeport, Mass. Has for sale a choice assortment of FRUIT TREES, SHRUBS, ROOTS, and VINES, among them are the best varieties of Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry, Peach, Apricot, Grapevines, Asparagus, Rhubarb, Pear stocks, Apple do., Plum do., Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, &c. Trees of an extra size always on hand. March 23.

FARM FOR SALE.

For sale a Farm in Lexington situated one mile west of the Village, and 11 miles from Boston, containing 175 acres, including about 40 acres of wood land, the soil is rich, and under a high state of cultivation. On the premises is a large Dwelling House, which will conveniently accommodate two families; a large Barn, Shed, Chaise House, Mill House, Cider Mill and Ice House, and an extensive Piggery, all of which are new, or in good repair. The Farm is stocked with every variety of Fruit, and the Garden, which includes about an acre, with a choice selection of Shrubs and Flowering Plants, which the proprietor has devoted several years in procuring, with great care and expense. Within the garden is a Green House, 40 feet by 16, with suitable buildings adjacent to accommodate the Gardener. The House is heated upon the most approved plan, and is stocked with a variety of the best Grapes, Flowering plants, &c.

A valuable stock of improved Short Horn, Durham, North Devon, and Alderney Cattle will be sold to the purchaser of the Farm if wanted. For further particulars inquire of ARAD PROCTER, on the premises, or of JAMES VILA, Bath Street, Boston.

If not disposed of at private sale it will be offered at Auction on Friday, 1st of April at 3 o'clock P. M.

Feb. 16. eptA1

LINNÆN BOTANIC GARDEN AND NURSERY.

FLUSHING, L. I. NEAR NEW YORK.

(*Late of Messrs. Prince.*)

The new Proprietors of this long established and well known Nursery, late the property of William Prince, Esq., and comprising the premises occupied and cultivated by him as a Nursery for nearly fifty years, intend not only to spare no pains or expense to maintain the ancient celebrity of this establishment for its unrivalled collection of Trees, Shrubs and Plants, but to endeavor to merit the confidence and patronage of the public, by integrity and liberality in dealing, and moderation in charges. Being one of the oldest Nurseries in the United States, founded upwards of half a century since, and great pains and expense having for a long series of years been bestowed by the late proprietor, in procuring and cultivating every thing that was valuable, it no doubt contains at the present time a more extensive collection of Trees, Shrubs, Plants, etc.,—variety as well as quantity being considered,—than can be found elsewhere in the United States. They now offer for sale,

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES,

Evergreens, Flowering Shrubs, and Herbaceous Plants, Bulbous Flower Roots, splendid Dahlias, of the latest varieties, etc. Ornamental Trees and Evergreens of an extra size can be supplied. A liberal discount will be made on large orders.

It is hoped that the public will not be misled by the attempt to transfer the name by which this Nursery has been distinguished for forty years, to a piece of ground purchased expressly and used principally for the purpose of a private residence, another small detached piece to which Mr. Prince Sen., has recently removed, which was cultivated as a Nursery before the Revolution, but has not been for many years past, except to propogate Morus Multicaulis, and to another piece purchased only four years since. The Proprietors have no wish to refer to the name of, or in any wise to interfere with, the late proprietor, further than is indispensably necessary in strict justice to themselves, to wit: to identify the premises, make known the change of ownership, and to have the benefit of the reputation of this long established, extensive, and well-known Nursery as such, and which they purpose not only to continue, but to increase; and they will endeavor, and confidently hope by vigorous exertion and a liberal expenditure, to continue such reputation for the Nursery, and by strict integrity and liberality in dealing to establish one for *themselves*.

Orders addressed to the subscriber, the conductor of the establishment for the present proprietors, will be promptly attended to. New Catalogues at *reduced prices* furnished gratis.

The subscriber also offers for sale a general assortment of Garden, Field, and Flower Seeds, in large or small quantities, warranted *genuine* and *fresh*.

March 16. 2w G. R. GARRETSON.

GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDS.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. have received their full supply of Garden and Field Seeds, which they warrant to be pure and fresh, as follows:

Early Cedo Nulli Peas.	Early Horn do.
" Warwick do.	Mangel Wurtzel Beet.
" Dwarf do.	Sugar do.
" Washington do.	Long Red do.
" Frame do.	Early Turnip do.
Blue Imperial do.	Ruta Bags.
Marrowfat, &c.	Turnips in great variety.
White Altringham Carrot.	Early and Late Beans of sorts.
Long Orange do.	

FRUIT, ORNAMENTAL TREES, &c.

NURSERY OF WILLIAM KENRICK,

Of *Peach, Pear, Plum and Cherry Trees*, a collection unrivalled in any former year, for extensive numbers of fine trees, of new and finest kinds. Large additions of new, valuable, or beautiful, are just received from Europe.

Gooseberries of first quality, Apples, Quinces, Grape Vines, Raspberries, Currents, Strawberries, &c. The new abridged and descriptive Catalogue for 1842, will be sent to all who apply.

Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Honeysuckles, &c. Splendid varieties of double yellow Harrison and other Roses—of Tree Pæonies, of Herbaceous Pæonies, and other flowering Plants—of double Dahlias, &c., Rhubarb of first rate newest kinds, Cockspur, Thorns, &c.

All orders addressed to the subscriber, will be promptly attended to, and Trees when so ordered, will be securely packed in mats and moss for safe transport to all distant places by land or sea, and delivered in the city free of charge, for transportation by the wagon which is sent thither daily, or orders may be left at the stand, at No. 44 Congress street, Boston. WILLIAM KENRICK

Nonantum Hill, Newton.

March 9. eptl2thJune

SITUATION WANTED

AS GARDNER—by one that has served a regular apprenticeship in Europe, and has had seven years' experience in this country. The best of reference given. Address J. D. at this office. March 9.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The "P. D." of the N. E. Farmer to the Presiding Geniuses of the Maine Farmer and Maine Cultivator— GREETING:

Represents:—That the *legitimate* duties of his station are already sufficiently arduous and perplexing, without an additional one compelling him, the said "P. D.", to make *sense* out of *nonsense*:—Wherefore he, the said "P. D.", begs your honors to devote a little more attention to the *punctuation*, the *bad punctuation*, and the *no punctuation*, in the communications of your correspondents generally: as by the omission of your honors so to do, he, the said "P. D.", has to remedy the defect when putting in type the articles which the Editor, from time to time, selects from the journals under the supervision of your honors respectively:—Which *extraordinary* duty, he, the said "P. D.", farther represents, frequently subjects him, the said "P. D.", to no inconsiderable loss of time, besides disturbing the equanimity of his temper. And your petitioner begs farther to say, that if the above named neglect of your honors be not imputable to carelessness, but compelled by *necessity*—if it be because your honors, in the technical language of the printing office, are *hard run for "sorts"*—upon your honors acknowledging such to be the fact, he, the said petitioner, proffers to furnish your honors, at his own expense, with a *quant. sufficit* of commas, periods, &c. to remedy the defect herein complained of, which operates so seriously to his detriment.

Farther your petitioner saith not.

(Signed,) "P. D."

AN ALLEGORY.—Seated on the bank of a murmuring stream, with my book, I indulged myself in planning some way of escape from my supposed hard task of studying. I was aroused by a slight tap on my shoulder. I turned around to see who this intruder was; when lo! I beheld the most beautiful creature the earth could boast!

As soon as I had partially recovered from my fright, she addressed me thus: "I have long watched you, and heard your sighs for me—but have never had a favorable opportunity till now to address you. You sigh for the novelties and pleasures of this dazzling world; you despise those musty books; and you are, in fact, precisely like me. So come with me, and I will show you my treasures and palaces."

I complied. She led me through street after street, and lane after lane—when at last we reached a house beautiful in appearance, but poorly constructed. Here I was about to enter, when my attention was attracted by a low whisper. I listened, and heard the following pithy maxim—"Look before you leap." I did, and judge of my astonishment, when I turned to ask my conductress the meaning of those words, I beheld her changed to her original form, and instead of a pleasant and smiling face, nothing remained but a malicious grin of triumph, with pride and self-esteem depicted on her haggard countenance.

I was now at a loss what to do, when I was relieved by the approach of a nymph, at whose appearance my enchantress vanished. "Had I not come," said Learning, (for that was her name) "what would have been your fate, Ignorance only knows, as none return when once they have crossed her threshhold."

I fell on my kness, and was about to thank my conductress for her assistance, when a bee lit on my lip, and I awoke. It was a dream of much profit to me.—*Lowell Offering.*

Fast Day.—The Governor has appointed Thursday, the 7th of April, as the annual Fast in Massachusetts.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside: this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

FLOWER SEEDS.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO., Nos. 51 and 52 North Market street, offer for sale their usual variety of Flower Seeds, comprising all that are desirable for cultivation.

Boston, March 9th, 1842

SEEDS FOR HOT BEDS.

The subscribers offer for sale a great variety of Vegetable Seeds desirable for the Hot bed, as follows,

Nonpariel Cabbage.	Early Cauliflower.
Early Hope do.	" Broccoli, of sorts.
Early Synot's Cucumber.	Celery, superior sorts.
Fine Long Green do.	Sweet Marjorum.
Egg Plant.	

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston. March 9.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE

At 1 o'clock, P. M. on MONDAY, March, 28th, 1842. will be sold at public Auction, a good Farm situated in Dover, Mass. about 15 miles from Boston, containing about 60 acres of good land, having a young Orchard of Fruit Trees, viz: Apples, Plums, Quinces and Currants, with about ten acres of Woodland with a House, Barn and good water, and Wood-shed, and other out buildings built about 10 years since.

The above Farm will be sold at a reasonable price, by order of an administrator to settle the estate

For further particulars inquire of LELAND MANN, near the premises, or JOSEPH CALLENDER, No. 3 Water st., Boston. March 9.

FOR SALE,

A few pairs of Mackay and Berkshire PIGS, from 2 to 4 months old. E. PHINNEY.

Lexington, Feb. 9.

APPLE PARERS.

Just received at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No 51 and 52 North Market Street, a good supply of *Stanley's Superior Apple Parers*, a very useful article. With one of these machines a bushel of apples may be pared in a very short time in the best possible manner, and with great saving of the apple, as the outsides may be taken off at any required thickness. The above is also for sale at N. P. WILLIS', No. 45 North Market Street, SCUDDER, CORDIS & CO., and HOSMER & TAPPAN, Milk Street.

Sept. 1 6w JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

FENCE CHAINS.

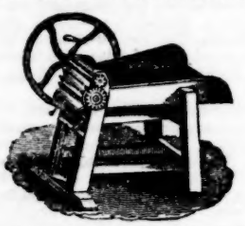
Just received from England, 10,000 feet Chains, suitable for Fences or other purposes. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st. April 21

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, &c

The Proprietors of the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store No. 51 and 52 North Market street, would inform their customers and the public generally that they have on hand the most extensive assortment of Agricultural and Horticultural Tools to be found in the United States. Part of which are the following:

1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs	100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels.
300 Common do. do.	150 " Common do.
200 Cultivators.	100 " Spades.
100 Greene's Straw Cutters.	500 " Grass Scythes.
50 Willis' do. do.	300 " Patent Snaiths.
100 Common do. do.	200 " Common do.
100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers.	500 " Hay Rakes.
50 Common do do.	200 " Garden do.
200 Willis' Seed Sowers.	200 " Manure Forks.
50 " Vegetable Cutters	300 " Hay do.
50 Common do. do.	500 Pair Trace Chains.
200 Hand Corn Mills.	100 " Truck do.
200 Grain Cradles.	100 Draft do.
100 Ox Yokes.	500 Tie up do.
1500 Doz. Scythe Stones.	50 doz. Halter do.
3000 " Austin's Rifles.	1000 yards Fence do.
March 17.	25 Grind Stones on rollers.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.



JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

SUN DIALS.

Just received a few of Sheldon & Moore's, Sun Dials, a very neat and useful article for the purpose of giving the time of day in the garden or field. Price 75 cents. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No 51 and 52 North Market St.

Sept 1.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within thirty days.

N. B.—Postmasters are permitted by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS.